

Examining the Dimensions of Rural Economic Development in South Sudan

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ABSTRACT

Formulation and implementation of comprehensive rural development strategy is imperative for enhancing economic growth, poverty reduction, and delivery of quality services to both rural and urban inhabitants. A 6-month study was conducted to explore some aspects of rural economic development in South Sudan. A total of 400 respondents were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaire. Desk reviews and observations, theoretical framework, empirical and two models of regression analyses were also undertaken. The results revealed that rural economy is a dynamic and instrumental socio-economic system exposing to constant changes under the influence of exogenous and endogenous factors that achieve trivial level of development. Empirical and regression analyses showed that empirical functions by education level had a significant correlation between education attained and individual income and overall economic prosperity. The government is encouraged to ensure that sustainable rural development strategy is provided on the condition of economic growth combined with social transformations accompanied by the solution of socially important issues to bring about the desire changes in rural economic development, environment preservation, satisfaction of social needs of the communities, solution of the problems of social security and social policy. Further rural development strategies are highly needed for achieving sustainable development in South Sudan.

KEYWORD: Rural areas, Rural Development, Economic development, Sustainability, South Sudan

1. INTRODUCTION

South Sudan is endowed with vast natural resources including oil, but it depends heavily on agriculture (Guarcello *et al.*, 2011). Nonetheless, it remains among the most ruralized countries in Africa, with 83% of its human population residing in rural areas (NBS, 2012). The ruralization rate varies greatly by state with 92% of population in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, 57% in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 91% in Warrap, 91% in Lakes, 65% in Central Equatoria, 75% in Upper Nile, 79% in Unity, 84% in Western Equatoria, 91% in Jonglei, and 91% in Eastern Equatoria (NBS, 2012). From the government perspective, the rural area is rather dispersed, consisting of 499 Payam(s)/Districts and 2,135 Boma(s)/villages.

Evidence has shown that rural areas in South Sudan remain untapped with high potential for socio-economic development. Not surprisingly, the situation is highly characterized by low levels of economic activity and low entrepreneurial initiative, deficient basic social services provision, deficient basic and social infrastructure, diseases and pests, displacement, poor physical infrastructure, disputed governance structures and clannish linkages, unemployment and underemployment, poor education, poorly trained and under-educated population with poor access to education and training facilities, high levels of poverty and a low quality of life, among others.

It is worth noted that an increased poverty level in rural areas is one of the significant trends (NBS, 2013). However, the extent of poverty varies from region to region and from state/county to state/county, due to insignificant economic performances. Henceforth, poverty is more severe in rural area with portion of 55.6% of rural population falling below the poverty line against 24.4% in urban area (SSCCSE, 2010). Apparently, industry and infrastructure are largely under-developed and markets are not well organized (Okwaroh, 2012).

Although the principal objectives of the economic development are considered constitutional birthrights in the country, an increasing segment of rural community in South Sudan witnesses a steady degradation in the state of their economic welfare, to the point where their very existence is threatened (Ozden, 2006). Seemingly, the daily death toll is very high and the life standard falls below any reasonable definition of human decency. Therefore, there is a need to craft an integrated framework for development and devise a strategy that increases productivity and individual income to alleviate poverty and lift up the standards of living and quality of life of poor rural people in South Sudan. Hence, this paper provides a number of suggestions and recommendations necessary for poverty alleviation, which may reduce and mitigate its negative economic impact on rural people in South Sudan.

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A few studies have been focusing on rural economic development and no research work is conducted to explore a policy that fulfills the goal of ensuring rural economic development in South Sudan. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to focus on dimensions of rural economic development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in South Sudan.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Study Area

A six-month study was conducted in a number of national public and private sectors, as well as service providers to the rural dwellers in all the ten States of South Sudan.

2.2. Study Design

A mixed approach of both qualitative and quantitative forms was used. Combined with numerical technique, a cross-sectional pragmatic qualitative research was used (Patton, 2002) in a randomized sample of 25 to 58+ aged respondents. Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) using semi-structure questionnaire were undertaken with members of rural community in both public and private sectors. A qualitative research was designed to generate a general explanation of a process, an action, or an interaction shaped by the views of a large number of participants (Creswell, 2013). Independent variables (e.g., education, occupation, motivation, asset-holding, health and sanitation), dependent variables (Employee performance: efficiency, environment, promotion) and Intervening variables (e.g., income that helps explain the relationship between level of education, economic and social factors, Laws, etc.) were used.

2.3. Sample Size

A total of 400 representative respondents of the entire country that comprised 253 males (63.25%) and 147 (36.75%) females from different types of occupations in public and private sectors, and other members of the rural community were interviewed using purposive stratified random sampling technique.

2.4. Methodological Approach

2.4.1. Key Informant's Interviews

Both qualitative and quantitative data were undertaken. KIIs that included government representatives, university-based researchers, practitioners and activists based in different areas of the country were held using semi-structure questionnaire. This is intended to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the rural area in the South Sudanese context and the strategies needed to strengthen policy and calculated plans for rural economic development, relevant programmes, and public funded projects.

2.4.2. Desk reviews and empirical models

Secondary sources of data were consulted from relevant academic books, peer reviewed journals, relevant articles, records and reports as well as web pages. These data included education and income particulars; correlation between education level, income level and employment/occupation. The grounded theory approach of open coding, axial coding, and selective coding was used (Lorenzetti, 2006). Empirical models that examine the correlation between education ability and economic welfare from frequent cross-sectional data perspective were used.

2.5. Data Management and Analysis

Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version IBM 17, 18, and 19 were used (Bryman and Cramer, 2011). STATA

Data Analysis including correlation and regression and statistical software were also used to examine data patterns. A level of a significant difference was held at $P < 0.05$.

2.6. Quality Control Measures

The selection of capable research assistants was given great consideration and utmost care. Thus, most experienced field research-oriented, quality-measured educated enumerators were deployed. The tools for collecting relevant information were pre-tested to ensure effectiveness. This had also helped make adjustments to the tools as deemed necessary to meet the needs of the study's respondents. The supervision strategy and monitoring of data collection processes secured efficient and quality data.

2.7. Ethical Approval

Ethical considerations and the informed consent of respondents were obtained prior to conducting this study.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Results

3.1.1. Empirical and Model of Regression Analyses

South Sudan rural economy is a dynamic social and economic system that has undergone constant changes under the influence of exogenous and endogenous factors. In many rural areas, lack of access to education and limited opportunities to increase and improve one's skill set inhibit social mobility. Low levels of education and few skills result in much of the rural poor working as subsistence farmers or insecure, informal employment, perpetuating the state of rural poverty. Primary drivers of poverty in South Sudan include conflict, displacement, depletion of assets, limited access to social services, inappropriate education leading to lack of skills and low competitiveness in the job market, lack of productive capacity of individual households, lack of productive assets, lack of improved technology and low innovation, lack of flagship-sector focus in planning and budgeting, inadequately focused transformative policies, inadequate aid flow management, inadequate productive and marketing infrastructure and inappropriate international trade architecture.

The empirical evidence shows the labor force participation rate among the total population aged between 15 and 65 amounted to around 73.91% compared to unemployment rate of 12.24%, a 0.02% increase from 12.24% in 2018 (Table 1).

Table 1: Unemployment: Share of the labor force that is without work but available for and seeking employment

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)	Condition	Percentage (%)
2019	12.24	Increase from 2018	0.02
2018	12.20	Decline from 2017	0.13
2017	12.36	Decline from 2016	0.14
2016	12.50	Decline from 2015	0.08

3.1.2. Effect of Educational Level

Table 2 shows effect of educational level of respondents on rural socio-economic growth, which is significantly high at the tertiary education (54.75%)

Table 2: Effect of Educational Level on rural socio-economic growth

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Primary	51	12.75	12.75	12.75
Secondary	130	32.5	32.5	45.3
University	219	54.75	54.75	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

3.1.3. Empirical Probability Functions by Education Level

Empirical and regression analyses showed that empirical functions, by education level had a significant correlation between education attained and individual income and economic wellbeing (Tables 3,4 and 5).

3.1.4. Education type of respondents in public and private sectors in South Sudan

Table 3 shows the education type of respondents in public and private sectors in South Sudan of respondents has been categorized as none, primary, secondary and university.

Table 3: Education type of respondents in public and private sectors

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
None	24	6.0	6.0
Primary	70	17.5	23.5
Secondary	76	19.0	42.5
Higher Education	230	57.5	100
Total	400	100	

Table 4: Education type of respondents in public and private sectors

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
None	3	5.8	5.8
Primary	9	17.3	23.1
Secondary	10	19.2	42.3
Higher Education	30	57.7	100
Total	52	100	

Table 5: Income Distributions across Educational Levels in public and private sectors

Overall Income	Mean	Standard Error	95% Conf. Interval
None	1,960	521.1526	913.7426 3,006.257
Primary	2,483.333	684.2474	1109.649 3,857.017
Secondary	7,726.9	1,792.677	4127.951 11,325.85
Higher Education	10,927.81	398.833	8119.525 13,736.07

Regression analysis showed a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in support for preponderant evident that correlated between level of education attained and income. Moreover, the results indicated that the income levels compared between public and private sectors are variant and that an assessment of the individual income by institution type revealed that someone employed in the private sector earns (13,674.29) compared to the public sector employee (5959.389) as shown in Table 6. This is substantiated by Model 1 regression of income against years of education and type of institution (Table 7)

Table 6: Average income by public and private institutions in South Sudan

Overall Income	Mean	Standard Error	95% Conf. Interval
Public	5959.389	864.5627	4223.707 7695.071
Private	13674.69	2102.808	9453.123 17896.25

Model 2 tests revealed that the relationship between years of education and income was statistically significant (Table 8). The positive effects of the said variables still hold as with individual economic security concern.

3.1.5. Impacts of Income Generating Activities on Rural Economy

The income generating economic activities include, inter alia, creation of employment opportunities for the rural poor and unemployed people, access to resources and wealth development, improve living standards and infrastructure development (e.g. health and education facilities, roads) and provision of economic and social services to improve and sustain the livelihood of the rural people in terms of education, feeding, health needs, besides other socio-economic needs that could lead to improved standard of living in the rural area and enhance rural economic development and economic growth in the rural area.

The foreknown fact is that South Sudan economy remains very weak. In spite of its agricultural potential, the country remains food insecure. The analysis of the study on some aspects of rural development and rural economy exposed that rural people are, for the most part, poverty stricken and practice subsistence farming as a means of survival. The results of this study showed that large number of people are affected by poverty or other poverty related problems. The desk study reveals that 50.6% of the population of South Sudan is found to be falling below the poverty line, with 24.4% of the urban population and 55.4% of the rural population falling below the poverty line. This indicates that impact of income generating activities on rural economy and individuals' socio-economic security remains marginal. There is very little production for market and most people are involved in smallholder production for their own consumption. The study indicates that most of the households in the rural areas are net food buyers; they do not produce enough food to meet their needs through to the next harvest season (UNDP, 2014). Indeed, the country's economy has been plagued with astronomical ran-away inflation. In fact, this high inflation has

been driven mostly by increases in food prices. As a result, food and nutrition security remains fragile and subject to natural and economic shocks, with chronic and persistent rates of undernourishment. As in the case of South Sudan, most of the rural poor in sub-Saharan Africa rely for their livelihood and food security on highly climate sensitive, rain-fed subsistence farming or small-scale farming, pastoral herding and direct harvesting of ecosystems such as forests and wetlands (Mufudza, 2015).

Table 7: Regression of Income against Years of Education and Type of Institution

Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs = 52 F (2, 49) =25.01
Model	1.3448e+09	2	672413106	Prob > F = 0.0000
Residual	1.3176e+09	49	26889390	R-squared = 0.5051 Adj R-squared = 0.4849
Total	2.6624e+09	51	52204045.5	Root MSE = 5185.5

Income	Coef.	Std. Err	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Years of education	652.6513	129.2646	5.05	0.000	392.8844 912.4183

Institution	Coef.	Std. Err	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Private	8318.095	1562.616	5.32	0.000	5177.9 11458.29
- Cons	-2434.432	1873.71	-1.30	0.200	-6199.794 1330.929

Table 8: Regression of Income against Educational Institution in South Sudan

Source	SS	df	MS	No of observation = 52 F (4, 47) =11.74
Model	1.3309e+09	4	332721087	Prob >F = 0.0000
Residual	1.3315e+09	47	28330254.8	R-squared = 0.4999 Adj R-squared = 0.4573
Total	2.6624e+09	51	52204045.5	Root MSE = 5322.6

Income	Coef.	Std. Err	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Education					
Primary	1423.768	3553.063	0.40	0.690	-5724.072 8571.608
Secondary	4416.248	3514.365	1.26	0.215	-2653.743 11486.24
Higher	9508.061	3224.849	2.95	0.005	3020.501 15995.62

Institution	Coef.	Std. Err	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
Private	8103.913	1635.686	4.95	0.000	4813.336 11394.49
- Cons	-741.3043	3121.008	-0.24	0.813	-6199.794 5537.355

Productive and income-generating activities use local available resources that could contribute to rural economy and generally aim to benefit the entire rural community. Income generating activities, which are refer to in this section include: poverty reduction, improve standard of living, infrastructural development, reduction of resource-based conflicts, better service delivery, economic growth and Development, and farming modernization.

In the present study, poverty reduction strategy is one of the livelihood approaches in rural areas and it requires a range of assets to successfully achieve positive livelihoods. As shown in table 8 below most of the respondents with proportion of 20.3% said that the immediate impact of economic activities on the community welfare is to improve the living standard of the locals. This means that majority of respondents want the improvement in economic activities to improve their living standard. Table (9) reveals that 16.8% of the respondents have wanted to see the impact of economic activities on the development of infrastructures (e.g. construction of roads, railways, and airports) to stimulate rural economy development (e.g. trade and business and ease transportation goods and services), compared to 15.5% who aspire for modernization/ mechanization of the agriculture.

Table 9: Impacts of Income Generating Activities

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Reduction in poverty	50	12.5	12.5	12.5
Improve Standard of living	81	20.3	20.3	32.8
Infrastructural development	67	16.8	16.8	49.5
Reduction of resource-based conflicts	55	13.8	13.8	63.3
Better Service Delivery	41	10.3	10.3	73.5
Economic Growth & Development	43	10.8	10.8	84.3
Modernized farming & Fisheries	63	15.8	15.8	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

3.1.6. Income Generating Activities by Type of Work

The majority of overall consulted respondents account for 30.0% who engage in the office work activity. Table 9 indicates that 28.3% were toiling the farming activity, while 21.3% claimed that they do business and 20.5% were engaged in other type of work such as house work.

Table 10: Income Generating Activities by Type of Work

	Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Activities	Office work	120	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Business	85	21.2	21.2	51.2
	Others	82	20.5	20.5	71.8
	Farming	113	28.3	28.3	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

It is worth noting that income generating activities by type of work were categorized as depicted in table (9) as follows: Office work, business, farming and others. A line graph showing income activities of the respondents is presented hereunder.

3.1.7. Impact of Income Generating Activities on Rural Economic Development and Livelihoods

The activities mend the standard of living of rural community though availability of income to cater necessary expenditures such as food, clothing, health, and education. These activities tend to downgrade poverty level, and thus improved the feeling of well-being and economic independence in rural communities. Improved well-being (and the reduction of social vulnerability) is as a result achieved by the management of diverse assets including physical, human, financial, natural, intellectual and social assets (World Bank, 2012).

Income generating activities create a strong relationship between rural economic development and people's participation, with the assumption of the existence of a community and their ability to participate in their own development. Commitment of people is high when they contribute in solving matters affecting them. It also helps through utilization of indigenous knowledge from them. Income generating activities with a people centred approach provide communities with the opportunity to generate an additional income, gain self-respect and dignity. People-centred activities ensure that individuals become active participants (inclusivity), thus providing themselves with opportunities and not receiving benefits.

The study suggested that 31.3% of rural participants believed that income generating activities that individual does can transform person's life by enhancing living standard and rural community's economic wellbeing. 24.0% of the respondents said that income generating activities can lead to self-sufficiency and sustenance of their livelihoods. Such activities have positive impact on rural economic transformation.

Table 11: Impact of Income Generating Activities on Rural Economic Development

	Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Transformation	Self-Sufficiency	96	24.0	24.0	24.0
	Improve community living standards	125	31.3	31.3	55.3
	Provides food security	88	22.0	22.0	77.3
	Reduces poverty	91	22.8	22.8	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Table 10 reveals respondents' perceptions on socio-economic transformation related to income generating activities. Accordingly, 22.8% of the respondents believed that rural economic transformation can lead to the reduction of poverty. While 22.0% of the respondents said that economic transformation by investing in human capital (training) and modernization of agriculture may address food security issue. The low growth of employment in the rural areas, rising unemployment and low levels of productivity due to the lack of capacity, were at the core of high and persistent levels of poverty in the rural area.

3.1.8. Average Monthly Income

Monthly income means earnings accrued to an individual or family from different businesses per month. Monthly income is the source of meeting basic family needs and for sustaining livelihood.

Table 12: Average Income per Month

	Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Average Income	3,000 SSP	131	32.75	32.75	32.75
	Above 3,000 SSP	180	45.0	45.0	77.75
	Below 3,000 SSP	69	17.25	17.25	95.0
	No income	20	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Table 12 reflects the variation of monthly incomes of members of rural community who responded to the question on income status. Accordingly, 17.25% of the study respondents stated that their income per month is less than 3,000 SSP, 32.75% said their income is 3,000 SSP monthly, while 45.0% said their earning is over 3,000 SSP and 5% earn no monthly income at all. Although a considerable number of study respondents in the different rural areas with proportion of 45.0%, have an earning over 3,000 SSP from their main income generating activities, this has not necessarily resulted in better incomes or more purchasing power. In general, most respondents perceived income deterioration correspond with currency value. Research respondents believed that there is correlation between income and purchasing power. Correspondence between trends in income and purchasing power was factually considered. In South Sudan, however, even for those individuals who earned more than 3,000 SSP, no positive effect on purchasing power was felt. Purchasing power of most participants had remained the same or even deteriorated as per their perception. One possible explanation is that inflation has curtailed purchasing power. The increased in the prices of goods and services has negative impact on rural people's livelihoods. The upsurge of the prices beyond what is needed for balancing overall budget of the country is tricky, because it will raise the toll and become a great challenge to dispossessed people in the rural areas and thus, its negative impacts would fall principally on the poor people.

Major Sources of Income of respondents are shown in Table(13).

Table 13: Major Source of Income

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Subsistence farming	126	31.5	31.5	31.5
Office work	91	22.75	22.75	54.25
Livestock rearing	122	30.5	30.5	84.75
Others	61	15.25	15.25	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

3.1.9. Implications of the Findings

Examining the various models of development and dimensions of rural economic development as proposed in this study may aid in determining the future use of this model. Reviewing some aspects of development and dimensions of rural economic development techniques helps in assessing the efficacy of the rural economic model.

Collecting data pertaining to the questions from the study respondents provides an authentic understanding from which determinations for future research can be made. On the other hand, the findings may point to the embrace and acceptance of the classical rural development strategy. In this case, a study that focuses solely on dimensions of rural economic development in South Sudan appear to produce the most effective outcomes may be advantageous for rural community. Regardless of the patterns that have emerged from these data, it is beneficial on all fronts to dig deeper into the realm of understanding certain rural economic development strategies and how the rural economic development policies operate and positively affect the livelihoods of the rural people. In that, the study outcomes may advance the well-being of the people in South Sudan rural area. The thematic analysis illuminated the key issues that emanated from the data. The building blocks for the next study can be constructed utilizing the emergent themes discovered from this research (Walters, 2011).

3.2. Discussion

A descriptive analysis of some aspects of development and dimensions of rural economic development portrays a complex web of activities and interactions that emphasizes the diversity of ways people make a living in the rural areas of South Sudan. Based on the study's economic analysis, the following variables were found to be significant in determining household income in rural South Sudan. Mostly qualitative evidence suggests that rural road construction or maintenance has a positive impact on public service delivery. Level of Education seemed to be a cross-cutting factor, which should be understood to affect the dimensions of rural economic development as the constant interaction between independent variable (education) and intervening variable (income). Hence, it must be borne in mind that patterns of interaction that exist at any point in time are likely to be subject to ongoing pressure that forces innovation and change the circumstance of rural economic development over time as a result of positive interaction between rural economic development variables, such as education and income. Thus, level of education had a positive impact on per capita income, implying that investment in education is income improving.

Similarly, income levels compared between public and private sectors is variant and that an assessment of the individual income by institution type revealed that someone employed in the private sector earns (13,674.29) compared to the public sector employee (5959.389). This is substantiated by Model 1 regression of income against years

of education and type of institution Model 2 tests revealed that the relationship between income and years of education was statistically significant. The positive effects of the said variables still hold as with individual economic security concern, as well as overall economic development.

On the other hand, employee performance as, dependent variable revealed inadequate levels of agriculture productivity, particularly in food crop; illiteracy; unemployment; low levels of service provision, isolation, higher costs of living and lack of choice; low income, existence of inequality in land holdings and assets, high levels of absolute and severe rural poverty; and poor level of infrastructure facilities.

It is observed that inappropriate education leading to lack of skills and low competitiveness in the job market is associated with unemployment, which is a recipe for socio-economic deficiency. As observed that, unemployment has a profound consequence for poverty reduction, equity, social stability and the self-worth of individuals. The above argument has also been qualified as they indicated through their literature on youth unemployment that unemployment is associated with increase in the gap between education, skills and jobs (Akashraj and Atem, 2020). They state that the private and social effects of unemployment include rigorous financial suffering, poverty, debt, homelessness and housing stress, family tensions and breakdown, boredom, alienation, shame and stigma, increased social isolation, crime, erosion of confidence and self-esteem.

Additionally, poor performance and capability deficiency are among the main problems inherent in the rural areas. They emerge in several facets, such as: lack of capital, lack of skills and abilities in workers (problems with the labour force), high level of illiteracy (about 73%), low labour productivity, couple with undeveloped farming, unproductive hoarding and lower prices of agricultural products, unwise economic policies of the government, inflation and deflation of the currency. The research results offer a more accurate depiction on causal links between variables: independent, dependent and intervening variables. The research results indicated that there is correlation between level of education attained and employment opportunity, quality education and proficiency in job performance. The study conducted on the causal relationship between education achievement and economic growth reveals that higher educational attainment contributes to income in numerous ways. It increases people's productivity (their human capital) by expanding their knowledge and skills (Kuol, 2019). Furthermore, the study on dimensions of rural economic development confirms that increased use of resources by households, particularly land and labour force, also increased per capita household income. Hence, strategic expansion of land use and overcome the lack of adequate inputs for land development, such as capital, machinery and modern agricultural know-how and methods, are found to be having significant effect on overall economic growth, and in

particular, rural economic growth. As you have seen, one of the prominent features of the rural economy is its deficiency in growth resulting into poverty and backwardness of the South Sudan's rural areas. The results of this study showed that poverty is more severe in rural area with portion of 55.6% of rural population falling below the poverty line against 24.4% in urban area. Evidently, an increasing segment of rural population is witnessing a steady degradation in the state of their economic welfare, to the point where their very existence is threatened (Ozden, 2006). This condition has negative impact on health and socio-economic wellbeing of dispossessed rural people in South Sudan. The study results revealed that there is correlation between poverty and individual's poor health. For example, there is an association between being poor and having a shorter life span. The researcher finds that the daily death toll is very high and the life standard is below any reasonable definition of human decency in South Sudan.

As observed, South Sudan rural area is strikes by poverty as result of deficiency in rural economy. Rural poverty is characterized by a general lack of access to services, such as education and health, and scarcity of economic opportunity. Infrastructure is also sorely lacking in the rural area. It is observed that South Sudan rural poverty is a product of poor infrastructure that hinders development and mobility. Insufficient roads that would increase access to agricultural inputs and markets is widely noted. As a consequence, the rural poor are cut off from technological development and emerging markets in more urban areas. The study on dimensions of rural economic development found that the persistent features of the rural economic landscape is intensely keeps deteriorating. These unfavorable conditions have provoked auxiliary chaos in the South Sudan rural economy.

4. Conclusions

Development of rural economy does not correspond to the doctrines of growth and sustainability in economic and social spheres. This is evidenced by the high unemployment rate in the rural areas, rapid rural depopulation trends, low levels of diversification of income sources and entrepreneurial activity, insignificant infrastructure provision, and, consequently, depreciation of rural lifestyles. Dimensions of rural economic dynamism, and socio-economic disparity between rural and urban remain unabated. It is important that economic growth occurs in the largest sectors of the economy. By contrast, if Government of South Sudan were to target high growth levels in a small sector, such as manufacturing, it would have limited impact, because, even if growing fast, the sector would remain small relative to the rest of the economy. It is also doubtful whether any heavy manufacturing will become economically viable in South Sudan over the medium-term, as the cost of transporting inputs to a land-locked country are very high. Perhaps, investment could be made in agribusiness manufacturing and value chain opportunities. The situation of the poor rural individuals/households in the South Sudan economy contradicts the South Sudan value of the right to life and the pursuit of happiness. Poverty reduces rural people's socio-economic conditions in many aspects such as: income, food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, information, access to social services, access to power, etc. The most effective responses to rural poverty have probably been rural economic development, social protection; and political empowerment. Further

strategic developmental programmes through inclusiveness, leadership for good governance, transparency and accountability are highly encouraged for sustainable rural economy development in South Sudan.

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